REMARKS

This Amendment responds to the Office Action mailed on June 8, 2004. Claims 1, 8, 13, 24, 31, 36 and 45 have been amended. A diligent effort has been made to respond to each of the rejections contained in the Office Action. It is believed that this Amendment overcomes those rejections and thus places this case in condition for allowance.

In the Office Action, claims 1-4, 6, 13-16, 22-27, 29 and 36-41 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by the software product Microsoft® Outlook® 2000, (c) 1999 ("Outlook"). Claims 5, 7-12, 17-21, 28, 30-35 and 42-46 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Outlook in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,630,944 to Kakuta et al.

Applicant does not concede that the claims as filed are anticipated or rendered obvious by the cited references. Nonetheless, in order to expedite prosecution of this application, the independent claims have been amended to further distinguish the claimed invention. Specifically, each of the independent claims has been amended to require that stored electronic messages are automatically filtered to identify one or more messages meeting a certain criteria and the identified messages are displayed along with a current electronic message as a single message thread.
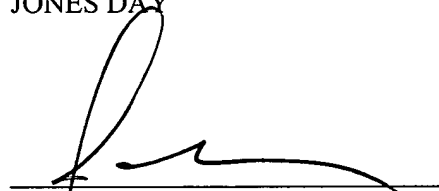
The Outlook reference is a traditional email software application that enables a user to initiate a search using pull-down menus to find one or more stored emails that match search parameters entered by the user. The results from the search are then displayed in a list. Emails from the list may be selected by the user for display on the computer screen. Although not specifically shown in the Outlook screen shots provided with the Office Action, it is assumed that more than one email may be opened and displayed in different windows at the same time. The Outlook reference does not, however, disclose a messaging system that automatically filters stored messages to find one or more messages that are related to a current message, and then automatically displays all of the messages in a single message thread.

As illustrated in Figure 2 of the present application, automatically displaying the current message 22 in a single message thread 26 with related stored messages 24 enables the wireless device user to easily place the message in context. This is particularly advantageous in a mobile device in which display space is limited and minimal user input is often desired. These same constraints are not present in traditional, computer-based email applications, such as the cited Outlook reference.

For at least these reasons, the Applicant contend that amended claims 1, 8, 13, 24, 31, 36 and 45 are patentably distinct from the cited references and are in condition for allowance. Claims 2-7, 9-12, 14-23, 25-30, 32-35 and 37-44 each ultimately depend from one of amended claims 1, 8, 13, 24, 31, 36 and 45, and are therefore also in condition for allowance. The Examiner is, therefore, respectfully requested to enter this Amendment and pass this case to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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